(e) and (f) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 7.10.2004 has, *inter-alia*, directed that "The contractors shall not be used for supply of nutrition in Anganwadis and preferably ICDS funds shall be spent by making use of village communities, Self-help Groups and Mahila Mandals for buying of grains and preparation of meals."

The Government has decided that the existing pattern of providing supplementary nutrition will continue, for the present. The Government has also decided that arrangements be made for serving hot cooked meals in all Anganwadis/ Mini-Anganwadis under the ICDS Scheme within the next two years. The Government has also constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to recommend measures to expedite switch over to hot cooked meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, in consultation with the State Governments.

Distribution of cooked food under ICDS

1536. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute cooked food in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme instead of the present procedure of uncooked food;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above process may reverse the process of universalisation of the scheme;

(d) if not, whether competent authority would discuss the change in food supply with stakeholders for consensus; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) The Government has decided that arrangements be made for serving hot cooked meals in all Anganwadis/ Mini-Anganwadis under the ICDS Scheme within the next two years. The Cabinet also constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to recommend measures to expedite switch over to hot cooked meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, in consultation with the State Governments.

In order to universalize the Scheme of ICDS, the Government has approved the 3rd phase of expansion bringing the total number of Anganwadi Centres to 14 lakhs.

Observation homes for children

1537. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that observation homes for children in the country are in a pathetic state, as per a study conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the homes in the nine States covered under the study, served even 50 per cent of the needs of the children; and